GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2904
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
SUPPORT OF POTATOES
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of potatoes is very low in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) whether due to this low price it is very difficult to meet the cost of potatoes; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of potato growers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The price of potato in the country including Bihar is ruling higher in the currentyear as compared to previous year. The seven month average of wholesale price index of potato in 2001 exhibited an increase of 76.2% over the corresponding monthly average of the previous year.

(b): The price estimates indicate that the current wholesale price of potato in Patna market of Bihar is higher than cost of production.

(c): However, in the event of prices falling below the cost of production; to safeguard the interest of potato growers in the country, the Government of India implements a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticulture items of importance.Under the scheme concerned state Government/UT need to make a formal writtenrequest in this respect and willing to share the 50% loss, if any, incurred in undertaking the scheme.